

D-2398

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Telegrams

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3  
SHANGHAI DIVISIONAL POLICE

S. C. REGISTRY

N. S. D. 2398

9 140

SHANGHAI EVENING POST & MERCURY.

JAN 8 1940

## Japanese Delay Reuter Cables

### Reports On Destruction Of English Hospital Said Held Up

Reuter telegrams from Tsingtao, reporting the burning by Japanese troops of the English Methodist Mission hospital at Chuchia, near Wutungfu, in Shantung, on Christmas Day, were subjected to considerable delays, it was noted here today. The delays were presumably caused by the Japanese censors.

The first message, filed from Tsingtao on January 4 at 6:15 p.m., took over 48 hours in transmission, only reaching Shanghai after 7 p.m. on January 6.

A second message, in which the Japanese authorities are reported to have admitted the burning of the hospital, was equally delayed. It was filed from Tsingtao on January 5 at 6 p.m., and did not get to Shanghai until 2:15 p.m. January 6.

"Normal" transmission time for messages from Tsingtao to Shanghai by the Japanese-controlled radio company, the only means of communication, is about three hours. According to the Shanghai office of this company, conditions during the past few days have been "normal."

File

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

S. I. REGISTRY

No. S. B. D. 2398

S. I., Special Branch 26400 3

Date

Date April 24, 1939

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
REPORT

Subject Japanese Censorship - Cable companies and news report services.

Made by D.S. Lockwood

Forwarded by

G. Glaufer. S.I.

Prior to the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese hostilities in 1937 all Cable Companies and News Services were supervised by a body appointed by the Chinese National Government to censor out-going and in-coming messages, whether commercial, private or news reports. At the end of 1937 this body ceased to operate following the retreat of the Chinese forces from the environs of Shanghai. Subsequently the Japanese authorities announced that they had assumed, by right of conquest all the privileges of the Chinese Government, and on January 6, 1938 Japanese censors were appointed to the cable companies to supervise all messages. The cable companies referred the appointment of censors by the Japanese to their respective Consulate-Generals, when the action of the Japanese was approved.

*HR*

The Japanese censors work on similar lines to their Chinese predecessors. With regard to commercial messages, whether in code or plain language, a certificate is required from the Consular representative certifying that no illegal business is being transacted. Private and personal cablegrams are not interfered with but, they are all scrutinised by the censors. News reports are however, supervised when items and words derogatory to the Japanese are deleted. If it is considered necessary to censor items of news the decision is conveyed to the news correspondent with the request that it be amended or he is informed

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

.....Station,

## REPORT

Date.....19

Subject.....(2.).....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

that the subject matter would not be permitted to be transmitted from Shanghai.

It is the concensus of opinion among the managers of local cable companies that during the past four months the censors have been very lenient as regards news reports transmitted abroad. The reason for this is attributed to other facilities available to newspaper correspondents who wish to transmit confidential messages to their agencies; the broadcasting of news bulletins and the utilisation of the systems of the ~~Globe~~ Wireless Company of 51, Canton Road and ~~Press~~ Wireless Inc., of 1-3, Kiukiang Road (American) and other concerns.

The impression gained is that the Japanese censors confine themselves to prevent anti-Japanese messages or words harmful to Japanese prestige from being incorporated in messages or comments on the Sino-Japanese situation. This factor coupled with the fact that previous attempts to suppress news have failed, can be described as the main reason for the present moderate attitude of the Japanese censors in Shanghai.

copy sent to  
French Police

FILE  
JBR  
P.A. to D.C. (Sp. Br.)  
24/4

J. D. Rockwood.

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch)

2398

30 12 38

December 26, 1938.

Morning Translation

Standard and other local newspapers :-

JAPANESE AUTHORITIES AND THE LOCAL TELEGRAPH COMPANIES

**FILE**

The Great Northern Telegraph Company (a British concern), the Great Eastern Telegraph Company (a British concern) and the Pacific Telegraph Company (an American concern) on Avenue Edward VII had formerly concluded an agreement with the Ministry of Communications of the National Government whereby the right of despatching telegrams would be restored to China and a portion of the earnings of the three companies would be paid to the Ministry of Communications. After the withdrawal of the Chinese forces from Shanghai, the Japanese detailed officials to the three companies to censor telegrams.

It is now learned that the three telegraph companies have received a notification from the Japanese demanding that the portion of their earnings which used to be handed over to the Ministry of Communications of the National Government be deposited in the Yokohama Specie Bank. The three companies are understood to be considering ways and means to deal with the request.

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S E R V I C E  
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## CHINA PRESS.

SEP 28 1938

### *Japanese Censors Suppress Telegram On Mission Bombing*

A further example of the Japanese censors' activities in suppressing incoming Reuter telegrams was revealed yesterday when Reuters Shanghai Office received from Hongkong copies of recent telegrams dispatched by Reuters Hongkong office to Shanghai.

One telegram related details of the bombing of the Stout Memorial Hospital of the South China Mission at Wuchow. This was dispatched from Hongkong at midnight on September 18-19, but has not yet been delivered to Reuters Shanghai office.

The telegram in question, as sent off by Reuters Hongkong office, ran:

"Canton. Reliably learned Stout Memorial Hospital of South China Baptist Mission at Wuchow bombed on September 17 by nine Japanese planes which scored five direct hits on buildings. None of American members staff injured but damage estimated \$150,000."

R 28/9  
file

Q 28/9

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## Japanese Censorship of Reuter Messages Revealed

Many Details of C.N.A.C. Affair and Air Raids  
In Kwangtung Held Up; Tsingtao Wire Altered

Shanghai, Sept. 2.

FOR the information of their clients, Reuters publish herewith the texts of various telegrams despatched by their Hongkong Office to Shanghai, which were held up by the Japanese censors in Shanghai. The following four telegrams were despatched during the morning of August 24, concerning the C.N.A.C. disaster:

Hongkong 10.20 a.m.—"Chinese official sources state C.N.A.C. passenger plane from Hongkong to Wuchow with full load passengers shot down by Japanese planes. Canton River Delta this morning."

Hongkong 10.30 a.m.—"C.N.A.C. admitt plane forced down claiming passengers all safe. Company adds 'international complications probably occur which is taken to indicate foreigners aboard plane."

Hongkong 10.45 a.m.—"Add C.N.A.C. No shot hit plane but number Japanese pursuits continually dived over machine, forcing it lower and lower until American pilot eventually made forced landing. Authoritative circles here say attackers believed Sun Fo aboard, but it now established Sun Fo still in Hongkong, although learned number other important Chinese officials aboard."

Hongkong 12.35 p.m. — "Official C.N.A.C. statement says, 'Plane forced down Yuetshing, 25 miles south-west Canton, landed shallow river, all passengers safe. Machine left Kaitak at 8.04 a.m. carrying 14 Chinese passengers, no foreigners. At 8.35 a.m. pilot wirelessed: Japanese planes pursuing —I am being forced land. At 8.38 a.m. pilot wirelessed: Succeeded landing all safe.'

It appears now Sun Fo actually left for Hankow by Eurasia plane this morning, having at first intended travel C.N.A.C. plane, and it believed almost certain Japanese planes thought Sun Fo aboard C.N.A.C. machine."

It is now also revealed that two other telegrams, despatched from Reuter's Hongkong Office to Shanghai, were held up by the censors. Both were despatched on June 18. The texts of these two telegrams ran:

Hongkong 4.30 p.m.—"Canton. Officially claimed six unescorted Japanese bombers brought down at Lokchong near Kwangtung Hunan border this morning. It stated slow-moving crafts which engaged bombing Canton-Hankow railway were attacked by 10 swift Chinese pursuits, who flew rings around raiders, continuously machine-gunning them and crashing them one by one. Canton is elated at news and populace, feeling terrific reaction from recent bombings, going wild with joy."

Hongkong 11 p.m.—"Canton. City this evening in state complete jubilation following official despatches carrying colourful description air battle at Lokchong. These state squadron Japanese bombers flew from Amoy, through Fukien, visiting Nam-hung, Szehung and Lokchong, and were surprised latter place by Chinese pursuits. Stated one raider brought down at Lienhsien, one at Kaukong, one at Mabar, three at Lokchong. The latter already located and bear numerical marks 707, 7958, 21079, together with Japanese factory marks. Machines are twin-engined heavy bombers carrying five airmen apiece. It is added that Chinese pursuits hovered at 15,000 feet awaiting raiders, then swooped giving enemy no chances, slow bombers being completely at mercy. swifter Chinese pursuits."

None of the above telegrams have been released to Reuter's Shanghai Office, even yet, by the Japanese censors.

### Copies From Hongkong

Reuters have been able to receive the texts of these telegrams only through the action of their Hongkong Office, which has now supplied copies of the telegrams as sent from Hongkong.

Incidentally, all the above telegrams were sent from Hongkong to London, where they were duly published.

Reuters also consider it their duty to their clients to inform them of another censoring incident which occurred to a telegram in transit between Reuter's Tsingtao and Shanghai offices.

On July 7, Reuter's Tsingtao Office despatched the following cable:

"Briton, Jock Crichton, stopped by Japanese sentry for smoking cigarette Commercial Wharf this morning. Crichton extinguished cigarette and apologized, whereupon sentry slapped his face."

The only telegram received from Tsingtao by Reuter's Shanghai Office on July 7 ran:

"Briton, Jock Crichton, stopped by Japanese sentry for smoking cigarette Commercial Wharf this morning. Crichton extinguished cigarette and apologized, whereupon sentry let him go." —Reuter.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

11  
S. I., Special Branch  
REPORT

57/98  
Date Jan 29, 1938

Subject (in full) Japanese censorship - non-acceptance of coded  
cables.

Made by U.S. Henchman

Forwarded by

C. Crawford. D. I.

Enquiries with reference to the information contained in the attached press cutting confirm the general accuracy of the report that the Japanese censors now installed in the receiving offices of the foreign cable companies will not accept commercial cables in cipher unless they are accompanied by a certificate from the Consular Authorities concerned or unless a copy of the code used has been submitted.

CD  
The foreign banking association and certain large firms have, it is understood, come to some agreement with the censors and it is expected that the Consular Authorities concerned having guaranteed their bona fides, cables in code from these sources will be accepted.



seen  
by  
Dr  
D.S.  
29/1

D.C. (Special Branch)

D. S.

FILE  
D.C. 3/2

## Restrictions Decreed On Code Cables

Transmission Permitted  
Only If Keys Are Left  
With Censor's Office

### CONSULAR CERTIFICATES WILL BE REQUIRED

New Regulations Will Go  
Into Effect At Once,  
Says Spokesman

Non-official messages in code will not be accepted for telegraphic transmission from today unless "certified to be bona-fide commercial telegrams by the consular official having jurisdiction over the sender of the telegram and in a code submitted to the censors at the time of the filing, or previously."

This was announced by a Japanese official spokesman at last evening's press conference. While certificates of the Russian Emigrants' Committee would be accepted in lieu of a consular endorsement in the case of "White" Russians, the spokesman said the new ruling barred Chinese firms and individuals from using coded telegrams.

The regulations announced last night read:

"Effective immediately, all coded messages, with the exception of official dispatches, will not be accepted."

#### PENALTY FOR EVASION

"However, general commercial telegrams certified to be bona-fide commercial telegrams by the consular official having jurisdiction over the sender of the telegram and in a code submitted to the censors at the time of filing, or previously, will be accepted."

"Should, however, such commercial dispatches be found to have been filed in bad faith with their transmission, a fine will be imposed."

The new regulations, said the

official spokesman, were designed to meet the demands of other countries, and judging by the results experienced in the censorship of press cables, they anticipated that the censorship of code messages or transmission would be carried out smoothly.

It would be unnecessary, the spokesman said in reply to a question, to lodge a copy of any of the standard codes at the censorship office. If such codes were used, it would be necessary only to specify the code in the message.

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B.1  
DS Hand 18/1  
C.1

# Commercial Houses Not Required To Hand Their Secret Codes To Censor

Bona Fide Firms Having Certificates Issued By Consulates-General, Agreement Said Reached Yesterday

## SAME SYSTEM MAINTAINED WITH CHINESE CENSOR

It was ascertained from reliable sources that it will not be required that commercial companies here deposit their secret codes with the Japanese censors.

In a statement published here yesterday, it was indicated that the secrecy which commercial houses from bona fide firms now enjoy would be done away with, but as on early hour yesterday morning, the Japanese came to an agreement with certain representative business interests in Shanghai regarding the matter.

It will, however, be necessary for local foreign commercial houses to obtain certificates of identification from their respective consulates-general to be deposited with the Japanese censors, a system which was in operation under the Chinese regime. During the period of time

that it takes to produce these certificates the normal course of communication between bona fide local firms and the outside world will not be interrupted, it was stated.

Interviewing several prominent bankers during the course of the day, a representative of "The Shanghai Times" was informed that at about 10 o'clock in the morning that the large banks here had reached an agreement with the Japanese whereby they would continue to use

## Protests Lodged

Protests were undertaken to have been lodged yesterday by both the British and United States authorities with the Japanese Consul-General against the new regulations in connection with coded cable messages. The representation, it was understood, had been made separately by the respective Consul-General. The British authorities, it was further reported, had lodged a protest against the suppression of the protest sent by Mr. J. M. Temperley, the Manchester "Guardian" correspondent, to his paper several days ago.

At the Japanese press conference yesterday afternoon the Japanese authorities had a protest had been lodged by the United States Consul-General, but stated that he had not been informed of the protest made by the British Consul-General.

*D.S. Hanchan*  
their secret codes without handing over copies of their code books to the Japanese censors.

### Matter Is Settled

It is understood that private messages will not be given the same consideration as commercial messages from bona fide firms, and in such instances it will be necessary to supply the censors with the necessary means to decode messages.

"The whole question seems settled at least for the time being," one foreign banking official said yesterday. "We are naturally not in favour of censorship in any form, but the agreement which has been

reached is not unsatisfactory to us."

Through one of the cable companies it was learnt that the Japanese may reserve the right to call for a secret code book at any time, but it was also added that there is little likelihood of their doing so.

The announcement which was made here yesterday regarding what was supposed to be a new adverse ruling on the use of secret codes here by banks and commercial houses was characterized as "most unfortunate" by one cable company official. He expressed the opinion that such an announcement might cause no little misunderstanding and hoped that the true situation would be given the widest publicity.

### Codes Not Requested

The whole difficulty, it was stated, surrounded the question as to whether or not commercial companies would be requested to deposit their code books with the Japanese censors. The companies naturally look upon their code books as extremely confidential matter, and it was added, any request of this kind would give rise to serious complications and cause a tie-up in local commercial communication.

As matters stood at a late hour yesterday everything had been smoothed out and commercial houses interviewed said that they had learnt of the supposed change only through the press and had not been requested by the Japanese to deposit copies of their code books with the censors.

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No. S. D. D. 3 2 38  
Date

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D.S.

# Two Protests Filed Against Trade Cable Censorship

American And British  
Consuls-General  
Take Action

## LOCAL BUSINESS CONCERNED STIRRED

### Protests Also Sent On Held Up Messages Of Timperley

Japanese censorship of commercial telegrams and cables started yesterday morning, and the formal two protests, one from Mr. Herbert Phillips, Consul-General, and the other from the American Consulate-General.

At the Japanese press conference last night, the embassy spokesman admitted that he had learned that an American protest had been received but if the British protest had been filed he had not been informed up to the time of the conference.

The filing of the British protest was confirmed at the British Consulate-General. It was also confirmed that the British Consul-General filed protests against the censorship of messages filed by Mr. H. J. Timperley, China correspondent of the Manchester Guardian.

Although the matter of commercial cable censorship was generally discussed by local business concerns yesterday, no formal action in the way of complaints was forthcoming from these quarters.

The American Chamber of Commerce, passed over other matters in making preparations for its annual meeting, gave only passing attention to the subject, since no complaints from members had been lodged.

Mr. Phillips To Protest  
A spokesman of the chamber pointed out that the American delegation had been present only one day. It was yet to be determined what would happen.

All messages, commercial or press have been passing through the Japanese censorship office since its establishment and as far as the use of standard codes or plain language are concerned, the Japanese have been in a position to exercise commercial cable censorship for quite some time.

It also was learned that the cable companies first became aware of censorship when it was announced by the Japanese at the press conference Thursday.

Under the regulations announced by the censor, the Japanese must be informed of the code to be used and if it is a private code, messages filed must bear a consular chop. Such messages will be accepted only from firms endorsed in writing by their respective consulates or bureaus of concern. Concerns or persons caught practising abuses will be subject to having their filing privilege taken away.

During the censorship discussion at the press conference last night the question of press messages was raised.

Timperley Makes Inquiry  
Mr. Timperley, who was present, inquired as to whether or not the Japanese authorities had received the British consular protest in connection with his recently censored messages.

The answer to this was that the spokesman had no information on the subject. He advised, however, that he could obtain information.

Correspondents also asked for the telephone number of the censor so that they might call themselves to find out whether or not their messages had been censored. The number was not available but it was promised to be made known today.

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OK DBK  
Q 26/1

29 JAN 1938

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### CABLES IN CODE

Quite naturally there was a good deal of perturbation felt in banking and business circles on Thursday evening when it became known that an official spokesman at the Japanese press conference had announced that the Japanese authorities at present exercising functions of censorship over telegraphic communications had issued a ruling that no messages in code would be accepted for transmission unless "certified to be bona-fide commercial telegrams, by the Consular official having jurisdiction over the sender of the telegram and in a code submitted to the censors at the time of filing, or previously." If such a ruling were enforced it would mean that the private codes of banks and big business firms would no longer be strictly private, that confidential transactions would have some of their confidential character destroyed. The Japanese intention, apparently, is to prevent what might appear to be ordinary coded commercial telegrams from being used as a cloak to cover the sending of military or political messages, but such a wholesale ruling as above was no doubt hurriedly and somewhat thoughtlessly framed. It would not be constructive or politic to ask banks and certain other big interests to deposit copies of their private and confidential ciphers with the censors or to get a Consular certificate every time a telegram had to be sent. Clarification came yesterday morning when it was learned that members of the Foreign Exchange Bankers Association and other foreign interests were not expected to deposit their individual private codes but would carry on as heretofore under general certificates as to bona fides. It is exactly the same system as was in force under the Chinese censorship, except that banks and foreign firms will require new certificates by reason of the fact that many of the old ones appear to have been taken away. Doubtless the Japanese reserve to themselves the right to call for code books in cases where they have cause to doubt the purpose and purport of any particular firm's messages, but that is a reasonable enough reservation. The new ruling apparently bars all Chinese firms and individuals from using coded telegrams, but this is one of those precautionary penalties which *de facto* control brought about by force of arms would consider itself justified in imposing. What appeared at first to be so drastic a measure has been found on examination to be little more than a mality under the new conditions, and so Shanghai breathes freely again.

S. B. REGISTRY  
No. S. B. D. 2398  
Date 10/1/38

January 8, 1938.

Journal de Shanghai :-

THE JAPANESE CENSORSHIP IN SHANGHAI

On November 20 last year, Domei, the official Japanese news agency, sent out the following note to newspapers in Shanghai :-

"The Japanese control along the Lower Yangtsze up to Soochow has dealt a most vital blow to the Chinese censorship of telegrams and radio messages.

"The management of the foreign cable companies has declared to a representative of Domei that as soon as the occupation of Soochow became known, the Chinese censors 'disappeared' from the telegraph and radio offices in the Settlement.

"The censorship has been in force in Shanghai since 1930. It was bête noire with foreign Press correspondents, because of unjustified cuts and unauthorized alterations of messages.

"The foreign Consular authorities have on many occasions declared that censorship in the Settlement was incompatible with the Treaties, but the cable companies, threatened with a loss of their business in the interior if they did not submit to the Chinese demands, were obliged to accept the censorship."

Thus, on November 20, the Japanese admitted the Chinese censorship of telegrams sent abroad was illegal, that the Consular authorities regarded it as contrary to the Treaties and that it was imposed on the foreign cable companies by means of threats only. Furthermore, the Japanese authorities have never permitted the Chinese to censor Japanese telegrams in the International Settlement.

Now, on January 6, 1938, the Japanese authorities, claiming as successors to the Chinese Government in the International Settlement, placed Japanese censors in the cable companies for the purpose of censoring telegrams sent abroad.

There is no better condemnation of the Japanese action than the declaration issued by Domei on November 20 last year.

If the Japanese authorities, in establishing an illegal censorship, plead war emergency and the necessity of assuring the safety of their armies, one can admit that it is a case of force majeure. The Japanese authorities, however, have presented themselves as successors to the Chinese Government. But one cannot lay claim to any property not legally possessed by the person from whom one inherits.

As regards the censorship of telegrams, a distinction should be made between messages destined for the interior of China and those for abroad. When the Japanese censor Chinese telegrams they are exercising a right belonging to the Chinese Government. In the case

of telegrams for abroad sent out from the International Settlement, it is a different matter altogether for we have just demonstrated that the Chinese right, not founded on law, cannot be validly invoked by the Japanese to-day.

There remains the plea of military exigencies, the only plausible plea. The Japanese spokesman has already made reference to it. The reason given by the Japanese authorities for the censorship is that the present abnormal situation in the Foreign Settlements and the fact that the terrorist outrages could have been ordered by messages received from the interior. This censorship, he said, is necessary for the safety of the Japanese Army. One of the journalists present then asked whether the spokesman could give an assurance that all telegrams of a political nature signed by accredited correspondents with the Japanese authorities would not be censored, as these journalists could not be suspected of furnishing military information to the Chinese Government and much less with being mixed up in terrorist attempts. The spokesman replied, saying that it all depended on circumstances.

Thus, the spokesman justified the censorship above all by the necessity of putting a stop to terrorist outrages.

We will go further. We admit that the Japanese military authorities, as any other military authorities, in time of war, have to guard the secret of their operations, their plans, their strength, the movements of their troops. To preserve the secrecy of their military operations and the safety of their troops are the only two reasons by which the Japanese, in times of war, can justify their censorship.

In that case, they cannot hold the right of censorship from the Chinese Government for the latter never had the right to exercise it; they can hold the right from the International Settlement. In fact, it is only the International Settlement which has the right to authorize the Japanese, by reason of the state of war, to keep a watch on telegrams.

Such a censorship, because of the exceptional circumstances, should be carried out with intelligence and consideration. A censorship that is unfair and stupid would be absolutely intolerable. Bullying should not be permitted. A telegram should not be held up for hours on the ground that there are insufficient censors or that they are not very familiar with foreign languages or that they are incapable of deciding whether the messages are really harmful to the safety of the Japanese Army. They should not confuse political comments with military questions.

When a censorship is instituted in one's country, it is little liked; but when it is instituted in another country it is doubly disliked. Every measure should be taken to cause as little trouble as possible. Censorship is a difficult work; it requires tact.

REGISTRY  
A. S. B. D. 2398  
Date 7/1/38  
C.A.P.

Misc. 29/1938.

Central  
6th January

38.

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Daily.

34 Avenue Edward VII  
and Detective Office

JAPANESE CENSORS ASSUME DUTY IN THE GREAT NORTHERN  
CABLE CO., 34 AVENUE EDWARD VII.

During the course of the 6-1-38, it was learned that Japanese censors had assumed duty in the Great Northern Telegraph Co., Ltd., and associated concerns, Great Northern Telegraph Building, 34 Avenue Edward VII.

Detectives interviewed Mr. T.P. Mullahay, manager, The Commercial Pacific Cable Co., 34 Avenue Edward VII, and were informed that, at about 12 noon 6-1-38, four Japanese censors dressed in civilian clothing had assumed duty in the building, and were engaged in censoring both incoming and outgoing cables.

No untoward incident had occurred when and after the censors assumed duty.

Mr. Mullahay stated that negotiations regarding the censors assuming duty had been in progress for about two weeks, and the Consuls of the various countries had been informed regarding these negotiations.

Spec. Det. 1/c.

D.D.O. "A" Div.

D.C. S.B.

S. 1

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W. S. Henchman

C. T. 80-711 7/1

6 JAN 1938

THEORY

5. 2398

198

# QUESTION OF CARE OF SICKS PAID

## Japanese Wish To Show "Right, " In Principle"

Shanghai cable company officials stated at a 10 a.m. yesterday afternoon that their company's subscribers had no objection to their cables being used to transmit messages that were not in the regular service of the cable companies. The Shanghai cable company officials said that the cable companies had no objection to the "in private" use of the right of communication. The Shanghai cable company officials again stressed that their subscribers were desirous of making it as possible as possible to co-operate with the other companies and had no intention of infringing upon the regular service.

D. S. Henderson

6/30  
~~6/30~~ 6/30

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File No.

2398

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.1, Special Branch ~~Section~~

## REPORT

Date Dec. 2, 1937.

Subject: Chinese Censorship - cable companies and postal service.

Made by D. S. Hanchman.

Forwarded by

C. Grasbed. D. J.

\* S.D. Lee  
annual report  
DAB

With reference to the queries of the D.C.  
(Special Branch) appended to the attached report,  
enquiries show that until recently Chinese censors  
operated at the various cable companies. All messages  
were scrutinised and any of a doubtful nature were  
transmitted by telephone to the Chinese Government Office  
in the Shanghai Times Building, Avenue Edward VII, for  
censorship. Since November 20, however, this office  
has been closed and there has been no further censorship.

With regard to the Postal Service, censorship functioned in this department until the middle of November and operated from an office in the Post Office building on North Szechuen Road. This office has, however, been closed and censorship discontinued.

Seen by all sections of S.B.

File 58 8/2 J. Henckelmann  
D. S.

**D. C. (Special Branch)**

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10/26/12

This appears to complete the  
purview of your letter of  
instructions dated Nov 23.

III  
J. H. K. *John K. van Buren*  
charge & effective ~~DEPUTY COMMISSIONER~~  
work throughout the ~~(SPECIAL BRANCH)~~  
- 4 DEC. 1937

- 6 DECEMBER 1937

## Hitler Hits Drastic Censorship

Hitler's Hitler Book  
of Mein Kampf

Many Difficulties Face  
Correspondents In  
Far East

The task of the press has been made difficult by the Hitler Book of Mein Kampf.

The book has been published in China, and the Chinese government has issued

an order that it be banned from circulation.

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S. L. REGISTRY

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On the other hand, there are a number of British-owned and -managed news agencies in China. The Far Eastern Agency, founded in 1911, is the oldest of these. It is a large, well-established agency, with a large and convenient newsroom in the heart of the city, and a staff of 150. It is the type of agency which, in my belief, the Chinese would expect. It is similar to the British agencies, having agencies of its own in Hong Kong, Macau, and other parts of the British Empire, and, in addition, a number of bureaus in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, which works on a ratio of one bureaus per 100,000 square miles. British correspondents, and executives to keep on good terms also visit the big foreign business firms in China, from which it derives a handsome profit through the sale of telegraphic market reports.

Although the Associated Press and United Press have close working arrangements with officially controlled news agencies both in China and Japan, American news-gathering organizations usually are credited with a fair measure of objectivity. But here again certain imponderables must be taken into account. Most news agencies, it must be remembered, are concerned primarily with the sale of news on a wholesale basis to newspapers, which then retail it to their readers. As in any business, it is the retail customer, in the last analysis, whose predilections determine the character of the news with which he is supplied. Big profits cannot be made without big circulation, and a big circulation cannot be built up unless the public is given what the majority of the public wants.

What does the public want? Right in his *subdivision Analysis* of 1851, he indicates and his critics ignore the corruption of society, politics and the large oligarchical demands of "hot news." Right, too, again that is printed immediately after the event and used in word or in print-edited or otherwise.

Large organizations also demand news and comment matter that is pleasant reading for the masses of people. The word has been that American writers have outside and additional obligations. At the speed and quantity of their news reports and in "dressing up" the news so as to best depict the life of the mob.

### "Theatre Central" Club

Any American news agency correspondent, in the Far East, could produce from his files half a dozen instances proving the truth of these statements. "New York says such colorful details concerning American angle" is a typical instruction, and if there are no colorful details and no American angle the correspondent has to choose between thinking up some himself or having some

"bright young man in the New York office do so on his behalf."

This system of "remote control" leads inevitably to distortion and misrepresentation of facts; what starts off from the Far East as a good honest beefsteak often finds itself dished up at the other end as an unrecognizable goulash. Now and then an organization overreaches itself in the effort to sharpen the features of a situation which may in fact quite nebulous. Thus in 1937 an American agency which had prematurely announced the opening of the Japanese army's campaign for the subjugation of Jehol, was obliged to invent a snow blizzard to explain to its readers why operations had been suddenly "halted."

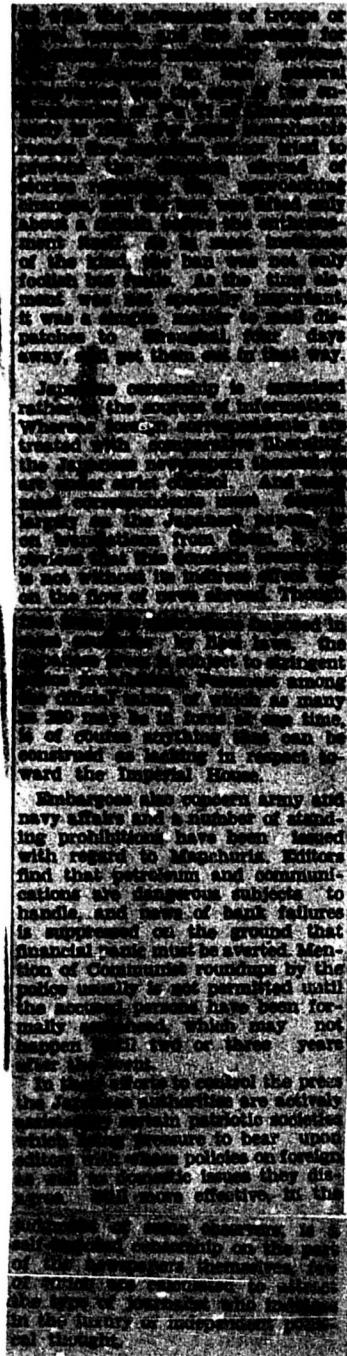
These contraindicated shortcomings on the part of journalism, newspapers and newsmen, have been emphasized only because they present the most dramatic example of the way in which progress is affected by the combination of ignorance and desire. The same argument could be extended to the members of the censorship and other agencies which now drag the news-disseminating machinery were to be analyzed and if, in addition, there could be a substantial reduction in cable tolls on news dispatches from the Far East in theory at least, a great deal of the "writing up" which now takes place at the receiving end could be eliminated if the correspondents were in a position to communicate which often, under present conditions, must be out of the provincial scene. But it is doubtful whether much real progress toward the dissemination of objective truth can be achieved until the public at large has been educated up to the point of preferring the significant to the sensational.

Ed's note: As we (Pacific Affairs) go to press, a letter from the author of the above article is received, describing a somewhat different light on developing developments within recent months. A correspondent to *Yesterdays* during the last four days in February filed 8,300 words, of which half were suppressed. "This" — to quote the correspondent — "was an exceptional instance, but perhaps it should be noted . . . Moreover, under the martial law regime which has been in force here for nearly a month now, the restrictions apply."

matter and pictures, have been much more significant than normally."

On the 20th of October, 1863, the





May 31, 1935.

Afternoon Translation.

Journal de Shanghai (May 30) :-

REQUIRED : A SCHOOL FOR CENSORS.

D 2398

The "China Weekly Review" has been conducting a bitter campaign to bring about the placing of the Japanese cable between Shanghai and Nagasaki under the control of Chinese censorship, as have been the Eastern Telegraph and the Northern Telegraph.

We have preferred rather to strive for decency and for common sense as against the illegality of the censorship established in the foreign Settlements and we have protested against the violation of the right of extraterritoriality of which the censors are guilty. We have also criticised their regrettable inefficiency and disconcerting incompetency.

The Chinese censors deem it advisable to emphasize their severity rather than their misdeeds. These sorry gentlemen who, without any preparation, have been in one day placed with the various foreign telegraph offices are too ignorant of their new work to be able to discern what "Article 26 of the International Telegraph Agreement" permits them to cut out from the telegrams handed in by the correspondents of the foreign newspapers and news agencies. They tremble unceasingly at the thought lest a phrase which, they very often do not understand or a comment the meaning of which is generally unintelligible to them should attract the attention of one of the officials of their Legations at Paris or London or Washington or Rome or Moscow and who may report the matter to Nanking, resulting in a reprimand being brought upon their heads.

These censors also deem it convenient to suppress anything that they do not understand. Most subjects are beyond them; some cause them fright. Should you use the name of Chiang Kai Shek even for the purpose of praising the Chinese Generalissimo, they hasten to stop your telegram for fear, doubtless, that the praise is inadequate.

Should you speak of incidents in the demilitarized zone and should you say that the Japanese are accusing General Yu Sue Tchong of arming the volunteers, your dispatch will be suppressed. Be it noted that you have not in any way accused Yu Sue Tchong of having supplied the volunteers with arms and ammunition; you are simply reporting that such an accusation is being made against him by the Japanese, although you can read this report in all Chinese newspapers. Nevertheless, the censor at the Eastern Telegraph Company will not allow you to cable it abroad. You should write that Yu Sue Tchong and the Japanese are the best of friends. If, after one month, Yu Sue Tchong is obliged to remove to Paotingfu, you should not say that this had been done on the orders of Nanking with the object of averting fresh trouble with the Kwantung Army, but that Yu Sue Tchong, who is the Governor of Hopei, had removed to a town located 200 kilometres to the south of the demilitarized zone simply because the climate of this locality is more suitable to the health

May 31, 1935.

Afternoon Translation.

No. S. B. D.

Date

of his aged parents from whom he, like a dutiful son, can not bear to be separated.

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Confid

You should never use the name of Hu Han Min in your dispatches because the censor will turn pale at the sight of these three words for they recall the existence of an Opposition in China. In the view of the censor, there is no Opposition in China. Should Hu Han Min rejoin the Nanking Government, you will not be permitted to report the fact immediately abroad for it will be necessary to allow the censors a few days to accustom themselves to the idea of not deleting the name of Hu Han Min any more. And even then, he will permit you only to speak of the arrival of the leader in the capital and not of his rejoining, for this would constitute an admission that at one time an influential leader of the Kuomintang had thought that all was not well. In the eyes of the censor, everything is perfect. For him, the communists have already all been exterminated even though, despite this, he leaves you the right to announce every day the fresh defeats they are sustaining.

Once again, we would like to say that here we are only referring to the misdeeds of the censors who sin, not with the intention of doing harm to others, but simply through ignorance and timidity.

Then there is also the reckless censor, as ignorant as the first kind, but less scrupulous. He thinks it will be sufficient to cut out phrases in a haphazard way. He plays at censoring like a child playing at being a soldier or a detective.

The "China Weekly" has reproduced a part of the criticism which we had written recently about the censorship from the point of view of International Law. To-day, we are rather treating this matter from the practical point of view. The "Review" has adopted the role of champion of equality. "Since," says the Weekly, "Europeans and Americans have to submit to censorship, why should not the Japanese submit?" The paper then demands that the Shanghai-Nagasaki telegraph should be made to submit to censorship.

We have already expressed our views on this subject. The Chinese censorship being absolutely illegal, the Japanese are right not to submit. It is up to the Europeans and the Americans to uphold respect for their rights and to recall, among others, the terms of the Washington Pact.

Nevertheless, if a Reuter's dispatch can be believed, the Japanese authorities have consented to discuss the question of the censorship of the Shanghai-Nagasaki Cable with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After all, Sino-Japanese rapprochement calls for some semblance of sacrifice on the part of Japan. We say "semblance of sacrifice" advisedly, because, whatever may be the official terms of the future accord, everybody knows perfectly that the censorship will not greatly trouble the Japanese newspapermen. With them, it is a question of "face". They will be assured that, if there are to be any censors, they will be very obliging ones.

For our part, we do not ask for obliging censors but censors who are at least intelligent and truly competent. Those which are undertaking the censorship at present understand nothing about their work. We demand that a special school for censors be established and that these censors be sent there.

G. M.

COMMISSIONER

Date 31/5/35

May 31, 1935.

Afternoon Translation.

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*Reg.*  
Please file  
and index  
carefully  
*J.W.*

3 JUNE 1935



*Mailed.  
Add. 3/6.*

May 31, 1935.

Afternoon Translation.

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G. M.

S. B. REC'D. 1935

D 2398

27/5/35

JAPANESE PRESS  
TELEGRAM

Chinese Government China  
Right to Censorship

Nanking, May 24.

The right of the National Government to censor press cables transmitted abroad through the Japanese cable office in Shanghai is the subject of negotiations being held between the Chinese and Japanese authorities, it is learnt in official circles.

The right to censor cables dispatched by news agencies and press correspondents in China, including the Japanese, is claimed and exercised by the Chinese Government in accordance with Article 26 of the International Telegraph Convention.

On the strength of this provision, China has the right to detain or censor any cable messages which are either directly forwarded or transmittable to the maintenance of peace and order in China. Japanese cables transmitted via the Chinese cable service operated by the Japanese in Shanghai must be subject to the same restrictions as are maintained as an imposed on messages sent through the British, the American, the Great Northern (Danish), the Commercial Pacific (American) cable routes and the Chinese Government radio services.

Kuo Min.

Key.

Please make subject  
of special file. J.R.

Noted 27/5  
J.R.

27 MAY 1935

10665  
J.R.

May 27, 1935.

3 Afternoon Translation.

Kiangnan Tsen Pao, a Japanese paper, published in the Chinese language. (Nanking Telegram)

THE CENSORSHIP OF JAPANESE PRESS TELEGRAMS

The censorship of press telegrams by the National Government has caused much misunderstanding to the various foreign press. The censorship of press telegrams by the Chinese Government is based on Article 26 of the International Telegraph and Postal Pact which stipulates that the National Government reserves to itself the right to detain, delete or amend incorrect telegrams or any telegrams which are deemed to be dangerous to the security or order of this country.

Japanese press telegrams are sent through the Shanghai-Nagasaki cable. However, at present negotiations are in progress with the Japanese authorities and it is probable that the Japanese press telegrams will be placed on the same footing as other foreign telegrams.

GENERAL HUANG FU AND SINO-JAPANESE DISPUTES

General Huang Fu, Chairman of the Peiping Political Reorganization Committee, arrived from Nanking on May 23 and is now staying in French Concession, Shanghai. It is reported that it is doubtful whether he will accept the post of Minister of Interior, as he still intends to refuse because the confused state of affairs in North China has rendered fruitless his plans for a settlement of Sino-Japanese disputes. It is understood that the present attitude of General Huang Fu is due more or less to the fact that his policy in dealing with Sino-Japanese questions has not been entirely accepted by General Chiang Kai Shek, Chairman of the Military Commission. This has caused great uneasiness on the part of Wang Ching-wei, President of the Executive Yuan, who immediately left Nanking for Shanghai on the pretext of undergoing a physical examination, but in reality to persuade General Huang Fu to cancel his resignation.

Eastern Daily News, a mosquito paper, published the following article on May 24 written by a pedestrian.

MOTOR STREET SPRINKLERS OF THE S.M.C.

The principal object of the S.M.C. in sending out motor sprinklers is to sprinkle water on streets to remove the dust. But the drivers of these motor sprinklers should not add to the annoyance of pedestrians while undertaking this work. I have on several occasions noticed drivers of the sprinklers purposely drenching pedestrians thereby soiling their garments. They regard this as a kind of amusement.

The other day I saw two young girls walking on the pavement opposite the Yellow Taxi Garage on Boundary Road. When they heard the approach of a motor street sprinkler coming up from behind, they endeavoured to avoid being drenched, but the mischievous driver purposely drenched them. The girls were annoyed, while the driver went off joyfully.

No. D. 2398

Date 26, 5/1357

May 26, 1935.

Morning translation.

THE CENSORSHIP OF JAPANESE PRESS TELEGRAMS

The National Government has instituted a censorship of Press telegrams. This action is based on Article 26 of the International Telegraph and Postal Pact which stipulates that the National Government has the right to detain, delete or alter incorrect telegrams or any telegrams which endanger the security of the country.

In view of the fact that the Japanese are transmitting Press telegrams by the Shanghai-Nagasaki cable which is not supervised by the Chinese Authorities, the National Government will open negotiations over the matter with the Japanese Authorities.

D.C. (CRIME) 2398

Date 2. 1. 35

May 2, 1935.

Afternoon Train

Journal de Shanghai : -

AN INEFFICIENT AND ILLEGAL CENSORSHIP

D.2398  
In the "China Weekly Review", a Sino-American periodical published in Shanghai, of April 20 appears the following comment:-

"The inability of the Chinese Ministry of Communications to exercise control over the Japanese Telegraph Office which operates between Shanghai and Nagasaki, is attracting the attention of diplomatic circles in Shanghai, Nanking and Peiping. Such is a report circulating this week in Shanghai. It is not known whether protests have already been made but it is declared that the American, British and Danish Ministers to China are studying the question with the intention of pointing out to Nanking this difference in treatment which is harmful to non-Japanese interests in the matter of commercial censorship and the censorship of news sent from Shanghai to foreign countries".

In other words, the "China Weekly Review" claims that the American, British and Danish Ministers to China are complaining that the Chinese Government is not imposing a censorship on Japanese telegrams, while a rigorous censorship is being imposed on telegrams sent by American, British, Danish and other people.

We do not believe that the writer of the article in the "China Weekly Review" has correctly expressed the feeling of the Ministers mentioned. We can not believe that these honourable diplomats have set themselves up as purveyors of Chinese censorship. It is certain that they have no intention to stand in the way so long as the countries which they represent are honestly and loyally informed of the situation in the Far East. We rather think that having ascertained that telegrams dispatched by Japanese subjects are enjoying absolute immunity in Shanghai, they are preparing to take up the matter with the Chinese Government not with the intention of demanding that a censorship be also imposed on Japanese telegrams but that the absurd and illegal censorship of American, British and Danish telegrams be abolished.

It is probable that the eminent personalities mentioned by the "China Weekly Review" are not pleased with the establishment of a Chinese censorship in the International Settlement. It is, in fact, certain that the existence of this censorship is at least as much contrary to the statutes of the International Settlement as the inspection of factories by delegates of the Nanking Government or of the Kuomintang. Every-body recognizes that if a censorship has to be exercised on Press news received or dispatched in the Settlement, it should perhaps have been undertaken by the Police. Finally, so long as extra-territoriality remains, the exercising of a censorship over foreigners enjoying this right belongs to the Consuls or other representatives of States upon whom these foreigners depend.

In Shanghai Japan has refused to admit any illegal Chinese censorship being imposed on her telegraph service. It is hardly likely that the representatives of other foreign states can be alarmed over this refusal; on the contrary, there is reason to believe that they will demand that the rights of their nationals be respected in the same as those of Japan.

D

Date

May 2, 1935.

Afternoon Translation.

As regards the censorship itself, it has to be confessed that it has never been more absurd, more incompetent and more inefficient than it is to-day. It continues to conceal news which everybody knows and it prohibits the dispatch to foreign lands of information which, despite its impotent veto, is published by newspapers in Japan, Europe and America much earlier than the Chinese newspapers.

The day before yesterday, the Chinese Censorship did not want foreign countries to know the communist armies were only 30 kilometres from Yunnanfu. On the other hand, it allowed to be published a false report that the reds had made a half-turn and were returning in haste to Kweichow Province. Only, it seems to have overlooked the fact that there is no Chinese censorship at Hongkong or Dairen or Nagasaki or Tokyo.

Yesterday morning, while nearly all the newspapers of Shanghai were silent over events in Yunnan, all the papers in France and America received from Hongkong and Hanoi very accurate information to the effect that the communists were 25 kilometres from Yunnanfu, that they had captured Changpo and Yanglin and that most of the foreigners had been evacuated into Tonkin.

48 hours behind the newspapers of Indo-China and Europe, the censors yesterday morning decided to allow to pass a message from a Chinese source admitting the reds were 15 miles from Yunnanfu.

We have no intention whatever to dispute the right of the Chinese Government to exercise the strictest censorship over newspapers in China; we also recognize that, no matter how absurd the censors may be, they may act with as great severity as they wish outside the Settlements, even if they will allow to reach us only reports that are favourable to the cause which they believe they are serving so usefully.

But what is as intolerable as it is illegal is that items of news which they allow to circulate in China are not allowed to be telegraphed abroad by us; and what is also as inadmissible as it is grotesque is that they presume to compel us to think according to the Chinese way and to adopt the viewpoint of the official Chinese journalists and the often childish terms which they are obliged to use to designate such political personages as Pou Yi or such a region, as Manchuria. For the censors have as much fear of words as the hares of its shadow.

In any case, it is inadmissible that the question of the censorship of telegrams for abroad should be settled by an ordinary private agreement between the Chinese Minister of Communications and the Danish telegraph companies. Here is a singular idea of international law.

The censorship should not have been installed in the offices of the Northern Telegraph Co. and the Eastern Telegraph Co. without the formal consent of the foreign diplomatic authorities; besides, even if this consent had been given, the censorship should have been exercised over foreigners with the consent only of the responsible foreign censors.



SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S. S. REGIST.

File No.

No. D 2398

S. I., Special Branch

REPORT

Date April 27, 1935.

Subject Japanese Telegraph Office.

Made by D. S. I. Duncan

Forwarded by

H. Grubt Esq.

The Japanese Telegraph Office, No. 25 Seward Road, is an official government concern and therefore is not subject to control by the Ministry of Communications of the National Government as in the case of other telegraph companies which are purely commercial concerns.

The employees of the Japanese Telegraph Office are all officials of the Japanese Ministry of Communications and, as such, are liable to be transferred to any telegraphic office within the Japanese Empire.

Any foreigners may make use of this office provided that all messages are handed to the receiving office in the Japanese language, either characters or romanisation.

The French Radio Station, 135 Route Prelept, is another case in point where the Chinese Authorities are not in a position to exercise censorship as it is an official organ of the French Council and therefore under the control of the French Government. Although no commercial news is broadcast over this Station, official messages are exchanged between the local French Consular Authorities and France or her colonies.



W. Duncan

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

Acting Commissioner of Police,  
Sir

Information.

H. Grubt

File No. 2398

**LACK OF CENSORSHIP ON JAP CABLE  
CAUSE OF DISTORTED NEWS**

THE People's Tribune, edited by Tang Leang-ll, which is popularly supposed to represent the political views of Wang Ching-wei, head of the National Executive Yuan at Nanking, published an article in its issue of April 16 complaining at the "nonsense and extravagant statements" which have been published abroad regarding the recent Sino-Japanese conversations pertaining to resumption of normal relations between the two countries. Readers of *The Review* who have followed reports which appeared in our issues of March 23 and April 20, dealing with the censorship situation at Shanghai are doubtless already familiar with the chief reason for the publication of so-called "distorted" reports regarding the Sino-Japanese conversations which have appeared in newspapers throughout the world. But to put it briefly, the chief reason for this situation has been due to Nanking's inability, or at least failure up to the present, to establish its censorship over news and commercial messages filed by Japanese correspondents and merchants, and transmitted to Japan over the Japanese cable between Shanghai and Nagasaki. The fact that the Chinese censorship authorities have not been able to establish their control over the Japanese cable, as they have over the cables and radio services used by Americans and Europeans, has had a disastrous effect on opinion abroad with respect to China's position in the recent Sino-Japanese negotiations. The reason for this deplorable situation is due to the fact that while news messages dispatched by American and European correspondents to newspapers abroad have been subjected to severe censorship, there has been no interference with messages filed by Japanese correspondents over the Japanese cable. As a result the Japanese have been able to place their own interpretation on recent developments in Nanking and these interpretations, in due course, have been telegraphed all over the world by newspaper correspondents stationed in Tokyo. Under ordinary conditions, political developments in China which are of international consequence, are cabled abroad by all correspondents, Americans, Europeans and Japanese. Each correspondent may place his own interpretation on the particular event, or he may interpret it in the light of his own country's interests in China, but when there is no restriction on cabled messages, newspaper readers abroad are able to compare reports and thus obtain a balanced view of what is going on. Ordinarily the American and European newspaper correspondent base their messages upon statements, official and unofficial, which appear in the local press, or they may telegraph interviews obtained from Chinese officials directly. Japanese newspapermen follow a similar course, although they are more inclined to shade their messages in accordance with the views of Japanese officialdom, particularly the military. Newspapers abroad, that is, in the United States, Great Britain and Continent, receive dispatches from all possible sources in the Far East, but chiefly from Nanking, Shanghai and Tokyo. In the event there is no censorship, or even in the case where a censorship is enforced impartially on newspapermen of all nationalities, the newspaper in Washington, New York, London, Paris, Berlin, Rome or Moscow is able to obtain a balanced viewpoint of developments. But in the event of the censorship being enforced on only one particular group, as has been the case here, the result naturally is disastrous because the newspaper editors and readers, in consequence, must base their opinions on one-sided reports. This is exactly what has been happening here with respect to the non-censorship of reports

Reg. Please attach  
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29 APR. 1935

dispatched over the Japanese cable. Newspaper editors and their readers in America and Europe have been compelled to base their opinions almost entirely on Japanese reports dispatched from Nanking or Shanghai, or from Tokyo, and since these reports have naturally placed a Japanese interpretation on developments, the result has been a "bad press" judged from the standpoint of Chinese national interests.

Japanese officials, as well as the officially controlled press in Japan, for reasons of domestic politics in Japan, have been anxious to create the impression over the world that Japanese policy looking toward the establishment of complete political and economic hegemony over China has been successful. While the Japanese have achieved considerable success in certain circles, particularly in North China where their military influence is predominant, they have not been able, by any possible stretch of the imagination, to swing Chinese opinion to their point of view, not even on the cessation of the so-called boycott of Japanese merchandise. This has recently been officially admitted by Akira Ariyoshi, the Japanese Minister, but it has not prevented the publication of most extravagant reports in the Japanese newspapers, based upon messages from Nanking and Shanghai, to the general effect that the National government at Nanking had "swallowed" the whole Japanese program. The action of the Chinese censors, allegedly controlled by the Ministry of Communications, in interfering with cabled reports filed by American and European correspondents which might have given a more balanced view of the actual situation, has had the inevitable effect of giving the Japanese a free hand in the all-important matter of reporting Chinese developments. The situation which prevails abroad was recently described in a semi-official report from Washington to the following effect:

"The public, as well as Washington officialdom, has been beclouded about events in the Far East. We are uncertain about what has happened lately in regard to Japan's moves *vis à vis* China and the reported disposition of the Nanking government to accept Japan's tutelage. Practically all the news published in the Washington newspapers about this important matter has come from Tokyo; there have been only two or three short dispatches from China. The silence of the foreign correspondents in China in this case indicates a rigid censorship; today's *New York Times* has an article about the censorship imposed at Shanghai, but this report as well as another in the *Times* referring to the Japanese program, was filed at Hongkong. Certainly all the American and European correspondents could not have been asleep while the Japanese were putting over, according to Tokyo reports, what amounts to the Twenty-One demands. Most of the newspapers in Washington, as well as elsewhere in the United States, due to reports from Tokyo, are openly accusing Nanking officialdom of having 'sold out' to Japan...."

That Premier Wang Ching-wei now realizes the seriousness of the situation was indicated in the fact that the *People's Tribune* considered it necessary to "re-state China's stand" on the Japanese issue, in the courses of which the following statement appeared:

"China has every reason to desire friendly relations with so near a neighbor, but how is friendship possible with Japan at this moment extending cordial welcome

as an 'Emperor' to a man whom China regards as the puppet ruler of three (four) of her finest provinces, and who has been carried from Manchuria on a Japanese battleship in order that he may express his grateful thanks to Japan's sovereign for being put in possession of territory which China regards as having been stolen from her, and which is held behind a ring of Japanese bayonets and bombing planes? To talk of friendship in such circumstances is to make mockery of the word."

Considering the censorship situation from the standpoint of those directly affected, that is, the newspaper correspondents and merchants who must use the cable and radio services, there is a natural objection to censorship in principle and a realization that it usually reacts unfavorably upon those responsible but on the other hand there also is a realization that censorship is a sovereign right which any nation may invoke in time of crisis. But while all nations have a sovereign right to enforce censorship regulations, this also carries with it an obligation that the censorship will be enforced impartially and that officials responsible for the application of the censorship will not use their positions for private gain or to the detriment of private firms or individuals unless it is established that such firms or individuals are using the cables and radio services for purposes detrimental to the welfare of the state, in which event, action should only be taken through official channels and in accordance with due process of law.

In view of the seriousness of the situation created by the lack of censorship over news and commercial messages dispatched over the Japanese cable, it would seem that the National Government—in the protection of its own national interests—should do one of two things: Either establish its police control over the Japanese cable station located at 25 Seward road, or, in the event the Chinese authorities are unable to do this, then they should immediately abolish the censorship which they have established over the local offices of the International radio station, and the American, British and Danish cable offices.

**THE CHINA INQUIRY**  
**TOKYO DEFIES NANKING ON NEWS-  
COMMERCIAL CENSORSHIP**

THE inability of the Chinese Ministry of Communications at Nanking to enforce its control over the Shanghai office of the Japanese cable between Shanghai and Nagasaki, has finally become a subject of interest in diplomatic circles in Shanghai, Nanking and Peiping according to reports current in Shanghai this week. Whether actual protests have been lodged is not known, but it was reported that the American, British and Danish ministers were studying the question with the idea of calling Nanking's attention to the discrimination against non-Japanese interests which now prevails with respect to the government's censorship of commercial and news messages filed at Shanghai.

What apparently has happened is that the Nanking Ministry of Communication, when it established its control over the Anglo-American-Danish cable and radio offices here several months ago, was not able to establish similar control over the Japanese cable which connects Shanghai with Nagasaki, Japan and in consequence of which the Japanese never have been subjected to the censorship of commercial and news messages which has been applied to other nationalities. The various cable and radio offices, all of which are located in Shanghai, which were affected by the National government's action several months ago were the Radio Administration, Sassoon House; Great Northern Telegraph Company (Danish), Eastern Extension Telegraph Company (British) and Commercial Pacific Cable Company (American), all of which have their offices in the Cable building, No. 34 Avenue Edward VII. When the Ministry of Communications enforced its order, it sent its own officials to these various offices who established

their technical control over incoming and outgoing messages. Simultaneously the government announced the inauguration of a censorship over both commercial and news messages, in which connection, all commercial firms in Shanghai were required to submit statements regarding codes used, and in case they were called upon, to submit translations of coded messages. The object of the order was to prevent the use of the international cable and radio offices for the dispatching or receipt of messages detrimental to China's national welfare. Since news messages filed by local correspondents of newspapers in various parts of the world are written in plain language there was no necessity of supplying codes or translations, hence the government censors merely exercised their prerogative of deleting parts of messages or entire messages, the contents of which they regarded as detrimental to Chinese interests. Originally the censorship was applied to news or commercial messages bearing on military developments, but recently it was broadened to include financial matters or even reports bearing on Sino-Japanese diplomatic issues.

Since the idea prevailed that the government's control of cable and radio stations and censorship of messages was being applied to all nationalities impartially no serious complaint was raised in any quarter and in general all diplomatic officials in China advised their respective nationals to comply with the Ministry of Communications' regulations. Several of the foreign chambers of commerce in Shanghai complained at the idea of having the private code messages of their members subjected to government censorship, but when they were assured that it was being applied to all nationalities without exception, no further action was taken. How it happened that the foreign, that is, American and European consular officials in Shanghai were not aware of the fact that the censorship was not being applied to the Japanese, has not been explained.

It has now been established, however, that the Ministry of Communications for some unstated reason, was not able to establish its control over the local offices of the Japanese Telegraph Company, located at 25 Seward road, which controls and operates the Japanese cable between Shanghai and Nagasaki. As a result there never has been any censorship of messages, either commercial or news, which are exchanged between China and Japan over this line. Aside from admitting the correctness of the foregoing statement, the Ministry of Communications, has not issued any explanation as to its failure to enforce its regulations impartially on all nationalities when the original order was issued several months ago. In order that there may be no mistake about the matter, we are reprinting herewith the personnel of the local Japanese Telegraph Office, as it appears in the latest issue of the city directory published by the *North-China Daily News*. This shows that there are no Chinese, official or otherwise, connected with the office:

大 日 本 值 價  
*Da-ji-pen-die-shin-joo*  
 Japanese Telegraph Office  
 25 Seward-rd  
 Tel. 40624 (counter, 40626,  
 40629 (delivery), 40634  
 (dir.), 40650 (sec.)  
 Ureshino, H., dir.  
 Suzumura, Y., supt. of tel.  
 Kodani, Z., supt. of sec's off.  
 Asano, S., clerk  
 Shima, S.  
 Numata, T., "  
 Obata, K., "  
 Nagasaki, Y., "  
 Maeda, S., "  
 Yukita, K., "  
 Yamaguchi, S., "  
 Tanaka, T., "  
 Aihara, T., "  
 Yoneda, T., "  
 Matsunchi, I., tel. engr.  
 Ujihara, K., asst. clerk  
 Ohta, T., "  
 Hirata, T., "  
 Ozawa, H., "  
 Nagoshi, T., "  
 Nonaka, I., "  
 Matsushima, Y., "  
 Arikawa, S., "  
 Imamura, I., "  
 Miyatake, Y., "  
 Watanabe, R., "  
 Saito, Y., "  
 Nagasawa, M., "  
 Okamoto, H., "

*S1, Please verify parts  
marked and report  
early. Enquiries should  
be conducted discreetly.*

*J.W.*

The large technical staff connected with the Japanese office, larger than that of any other cable office here with the exception of the Great Northern Telegraph Company, gives some idea of the extent of the business handled over the Japanese line. It also has been reported that the Japanese, in addition to the handling of their own commercial and news messages, also permit other (favored) foreigners to use the Japanese line, which is a matter of considerable significance as it tends to make Tokyo the clearing house for both news and commercial cables bearing on developments in China. It was the prevalence of this practice which recently was responsible for a statement in Washington to the effect that much of the Far Eastern news now being published in the United States carried a Japanese "flavor," due doubtlessly to the fact that Chinese censors in the non-Japanese radio and cable offices here were either deleting parts of messages, or entire messages filed by American or European correspondents, while Japanese correspondents, by using their own uncensored cable were able to send reports without restriction. The seriousness of this situation recently was brought to public attention when American and European correspondents discovered that messages which they had filed here were being suppressed, while similar messages filed by Japanese correspondents were being transmitted without interference and were being published in the Japanese newspapers.

That the situation is of special seriousness from the standpoint of commercial cables should be immediately apparent, because the exemption of Japanese merchants from censorship or interference with their cables places them in an advantageous position from the standpoint of competition with Occident firms, particularly on matters pertaining to government work or services.

The fact that the Japanese are sensitive to cable censorships when applied by other governments was indicated in reports which appeared in the Japanese newspapers on April 9 and 11 when the authorities in the Netherlands Indies enforced censorship regulations on all incoming and outgoing messages filed at ports within Netherlands territory. The *Asahi Shimbun* and *Chugai Shogyo Shimpō* both accused the Dutch of discrimination against the Japanese and alleged that the object was to interfere with Japanese trade. The Osaka Chamber of Commerce on April 13 passed a resolution demanding that the Japanese government lodge a strong protest with the Netherlands government.

When the Chinese originally enforced their censorship regulations here there were protests by American and European merchants, but the Japanese kept quiet. The reason for the apparent lack of interest on the part of the Japanese at the time has now been explained. They were not subjected to the censorship regulations which were applied to the other nationals.

6

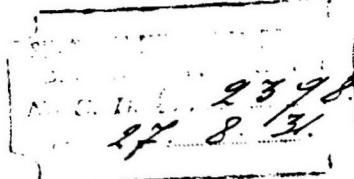
Serial No.	8398
Date	16.9.31

Extract from Intelligence Report of 16.9.31.

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International Telegraph Office

It is reported that the International Telegraph Office in Shanghai, Min Kuo Road, Nantao received on September 16 an instruction from the Nanking Military Headquarters to censor all radio messages received from Changsha and other places in Hunan as well as those coming from Kwangtung and Japan, and to detain all those messages which are detrimental to the National Government or General Chiang Kai-shek.



attach to  
file  
27 8 31

The day we published the following telegram  
from Washington:

As the foreign news agencies and news writers  
are always fabricating false reports about political  
conditions of China which they might be more effective  
by using the various overseas telegraph companies can  
mislead the public by spreading untrue international  
telegrams, the Ministry of Communication has entitled the  
International Telegraph Administration that it has appointed  
a telegraph expert, Mr. Chen Chung, (陳忠) to be  
chief inspector of the International Telegraph Company  
and to conform with this order.

The inspection for local control system  
and scientific telegraph companies will be conducted in a  
few days.

CENSORSHIP ON TELEGRAMS.

RECEIVED  
MAY 20 1931  
NO. S. B. D. 2398

In accordance with censorship regulations laid down by the Chinese Government the following restrictions are being put into force: - 6-31

1. Forwarded as well as received telegrams will be submitted to censors appointed by the Chinese Government.
2. Telegrams in plain language which are found to be detrimental to China or public safety or contrary to Chinese laws will be stopped by the censors and submitted to the Ministry of Communications for consideration.
3. Commercial telegrams in code handed in by Chinese well-known commercial firms must bear the seal of the firm and be signed and guaranteed by the manager of the firm. A specimen of the seal and signature must be forwarded beforehand to the telegraph office. However, in case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.
- Commercial telegrams in code handed in by other Chinese firms or persons must have a translation attached and, besides, be accompanied by the code book used.
4. Commercial telegrams in code handed in by the Foreign Public must be sealed by the respective Consulates as a guarantee. If preferred, however, a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question may be lodged with the telegraph office in which case the telegrams need not be sealed. In case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.
5. In case of necessity the censors may demand code books for inspection from the addressees of incoming commercial code telegrams.
6. Foreign Government telegrams, whether in plain language or code, are exempted from censorship.

Shanghai, 20th May, 1931.

茲將實行取緝辦法開列如左

(一) 上海大東大北太平洋三電報公司收發及後送之各種電報均應送交檢查員檢查並經該員於報底上加蓋備章後方可傳遞或投送

(二) 明碼官商電報如查有危害黨國違反法律或妨害公安或風化之處應由檢查員扣留並將原電呈部備核

(三) 凡本國人民發寄密語商電如發報人係殷實商號應於電底上加盖商號戳章並由經理簽字保證方可照收此項戳章及簽字式樣應預先送交檢查員備查惟必要時檢查員仍得索閱電本其他人民發寄密電應將密碼所代字句另紙錄出連同電本送交檢查員檢查

(四) 凡外國僑民如欲發寄密語商電應先由駐在地之領事具函聲明負責以後即可照收否則應由領事館於電底上加盖戳章保証之惟必要時檢查員仍得索閱電本

(五) 檢查員對於所收密語商電必要時得向收報人索取電本檢查

(六) 各外國明密語官電均得免予檢查

一千九百三十一年五月二十日發於上海

大東電報公司同啟

FM 1  
Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Shanghai, 21: 5: 1931.  
To C. D. I. Robertson

Please arrange  
to have contents of  
File D. 2998 noted  
with a view to  
mentioning matter in  
monthly report of  
either S.I. or S.D.

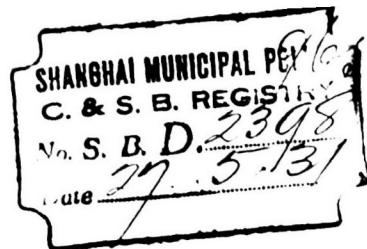
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P.M.



THE SHANGHAI TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1931

CENSORSHIP ON  
TELEGRAMS

REFERRING to the notification in this paper on the 21st inst., regarding censorship on telegrams, Foreign firms who have not yet lodged a consular guarantee letter with the cable companies and Chinese firms who have not yet sent a specimen of their seal and signature to these companies are hereby advised to do so immediately as otherwise their telegrams are liable to suffer delay.

GREAT NORTHERN  
TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

EASTERN EXTENSION  
TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

COMMERCIAL PACIFIC  
CABLE COMPANY.

Shanghai, 25th May, 1931.  
0 7269

~~Mr. A. B. C. D. I. Robertson~~  
For attention please,

D. J. Ross.

Is there anything further you can add to the report  
in this subject forwarded by you  
sometime ago?

Nothing further at present. HR 27/5. Please also see the  
attached from the N.C.O.N. of 26/5/31 HR.

## CENSORS START TO FUNCTION

### No Difficulties Experienced On the First Day

No difficulties were encountered by government censors during the first day of cable censorship which went into effect yesterday morning. The superintendents of cable offices reported that, inasmuch as yesterday was a holiday for many concerns in Shanghai, less than the usual number of cables were dispatched, but indications were that censorship would in no way interfere with business transactions over the lines at any time.

Cable officials said that the majority of business houses had filed consular letters of guarantee with the censorship officials, and that practically all large Chinese concerns have left examples of signatures and seals at the cable offices. Those who have failed to comply with the government's request for the filing of these identifications are being urged to do so in advertisements appearing in the newspapers.

From two to four men appeared at every cable office yesterday, and were given all cables before they were put on the wire. It is thought that the present staff of censors will prove sufficient, their duties being lightened by the co-operation of cable office employees and senders of messages.

With either identification by seal and signature or with code translations to insure them of the proper content of cables, censorship officials worked smoothly yesterday. Their attention is focussed on political news that is sent and received. No delay was reported in either dispatching or receiving telegrams yesterday. The censorship, instituted with a view to forestalling the exchange of harmful or wrong messages during the present political strife between Nanking and Canton will be lifted as soon as conciliations between the two centres have been smoothed over.

## LOCAL CENSORSHIP NOW IN FORCE

### Government Officials Operate In Offices Of Cable Companies

Full censorship over incoming and outgoing cables was established in the local telegraph and cable companies yesterday morning. The officials appointed by the Nanking Government took over their duties shortly after 10 o'clock and will exercise their powers as censors over all messages passing through the local offices. Particular attention is being paid to press and private messages, particularly those dealing with the present dispute between Nanking and Canton. While all commercial messages will be examined, censorship officials point out that as little delay as possible will be occasioned the despatch of such messages. Those which have the letters of authority from their respective consulates will be given preference.

## RADIOGRAMS TO BE CENSORED

### Same Rules Apply As Exist In Foreign Cable Offices

In accordance with the decision of the Ministry of Communications to censor all telegraphic messages going out or coming into Shanghai, the regulations governing the dispatch and reception of such messages have now been applied to the radio stations.

All messages for dispatch through any radio station must bear the seal of the censor before they will be transmitted. All incoming messages will be scrutinized by the Government censors before they are to be delivered.

Commercial messages must also be accompanied by a voucher from the Consulate of the firm concerned before they will be dispatched. In the case of code telegrams, the censors may call upon persons or firms for production of the code books if such is deemed necessary.

No messages will be dispatched or delivered which are considered by the censors to be detrimental to the welfare of China or public safety or against the Chinese laws.

✓  
25.5.31.

SI, Information  
J.W.  
25.5.31.

### CENSORSHIP ON RADIOGRAMS

IN accordance with censorship regulations laid down by the Ministry of Communications of the National Government of China, the following restrictions are being put into force:

- 1.—Radiograms either forwarded or delivered must bear the Government Censor's chop.
- 2.—Radiograms in plain language which are found to be detrimental to China or public safety or contrary to Chinese laws will be stopped by the censors and submitted to the Ministry of Communications for consideration.
- 3.—Commercial radiograms in code handed in by Chinese well-known commercial firms must bear the seal of the firm and be signed and guaranteed by the manager of the firm. A specimen of the seal and signature must be forwarded beforehand to the radio office. However, in case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.
- Commercial radiograms in code handed in by other Chinese firms or persons must have a translation attached and, besides, be accompanied by the code book used.
- 4.—Commercial radiograms in code handed in by the Foreign Public may be accepted at all times on the condition that a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question to be lodged with the radio office. Otherwise, with each such radiogram filed there must be accompanied a seal by the respective Consulates as a guarantee. In all cases of necessity, however, the censors may still demand to see the code book used.

In case of the absence of the Consulate having jurisdiction, the party concerned, in filing a radiogram in code, must prepare a translation and submit it to censorship together with the code book used.

- 5.—In all cases of necessity the censors may demand code books for inspection from the addressees of incoming commercial code radiograms.

- 6.—Foreign Government radiograms, whether in plain language or code, are exempted from censorship.

This censorship will not necessarily cause any delay in the prompt despatch of Radiograms.

CHINESE GOVERNMENT RADIO  
ADMINISTRATION, CENTRAL  
TRAFFIC OFFICE,  
and

Shanghai Radio Central Station.  
10697

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1931

CHINA 22.5.31

**Censorship Of  
China Cables  
Now In Effect**

Severe government censorship of all incoming and outgoing telegrams in China was imposed in Shanghai yesterday in accordance with expectations of cable companies and patrons, who were advised the day before that the censorship might be put into effect momentarily.

Censors' activities will not be limited to cable office only but will embrace all communications agencies, including radio and news organizations.

The purpose of the censorship primarily is to prevent the circulation of reports which might be considered detrimental to China's interests, particularly in view of the present internal disorders.

It is not expected that the censorship will interfere unduly with ordinary business.

Information

### The Censor

WE are sorry to see the im-  
position of governmental  
censorship in all cable offices  
throughout China including  
those in Shanghai, chiefly be-  
cause we feel that it will defeat  
its own ends.

The purposes of the censor-  
ship are clear and understand-  
able.

Both incoming and outgoing  
messages are to be censored to  
determine whether they are  
considered "detrimental to  
China, contrary to public safety,  
or contrary to Chinese law."

Messages considered to fall  
within these categories are to  
be referred to the Ministry of  
Communications for decision.

No friend of China wishes to  
have messages going from China  
to the outside world, or being  
received for dissemination in  
China, which would prejudice  
the case of the government un-  
fairly either in other countries  
or at home.

But the most strict censor-  
ship never yet has been effec-  
tive in accomplishing that de-  
sired end.

On the contrary, the very  
existence of a censorship body,  
charged with the responsibility  
of editing incoming and out-  
going information to conform  
to governmental standards of  
favorable propaganda, in every  
case has bred not confidence,  
but suspicion.

Censorship indicates to the  
public mind both here and  
abroad, the existence of an ex-  
tremely critical situation.

It is public acknowledgment  
that the government has become  
afraid to permit the free flow  
of information in and out of  
this country and breeds the  
suspicion that something short  
of the truth may be told in  
every piece of news or commer-  
cial information reaching the  
general public.

These suspicions may be whol-  
ly unwarranted by the facts.  
But the feeling that there is no  
way of going beyond the offi-  
cial governmental interpretation  
of conditions makes for growing  
lack of confidence.

We are fully aware that the  
Chinese Government has pro-  
tested frequently, occasionally  
with some justice, at the dis-  
semination of inaccurate infor-  
mation.

But heretofore the remedy  
was simple, and easily applied.  
With free access to the facts,  
and with untrammelled use of  
communications facilities, it al-  
ways was possible to expose  
fraudulent reports rapidly and  
to the full satisfaction of the  
misinformed public.

A censorship implies, right-  
fully, or wrongly, that facts con-  
sidered harmful to the political  
declarations of the government  
are subject to editing as well  
as untruthful propaganda.

It places the government in  
a position of creating a mono-  
poly on the dissemination of in-  
formation and makes necessary  
the calculation of the effect of  
completely truthful information  
upon a governmental policy.

The receipt of a piece of news  
or information known to have  
been censored immediately raises  
the question of whether the  
story has been told fully and  
completely.

This state of mind is a fertile  
field for the sowing of false in-  
formation, smuggled out of the  
country or fabricated with no  
foundation in fact, for no cen-  
sorship, however strict, can  
operate effectively against the  
purveyor of untruth.

Unfortunately, its chief  
restriction is upon the dis-  
semination of unbiased infor-  
mation.

Appreciating fully the desire  
of the government to protect  
itself from false reports, we  
feel that its step toward com-  
plete censorship is unwise.

Its chief effect, we contend,  
will be to create suspicion that  
all is not well in China, rather  
than to allay any fears created  
by uncensored news reports  
broadcast today.

Reg.  
file  
MAY 22 1931

444

### CENSORSHIP ON TELEGRAMS

IN accordance with censorship regulations laid down by the Chinese Government the following restrictions are being put into force:—

- 1.—Forwarded as well as received telegrams will be submitted to censors appointed by the Chinese Government.
- 2.—Telegrams in plain language which are found to be detrimental to China or public safety or contrary to Chinese laws will be stopped by the censors and submitted to the Ministry of Communications for consideration.
- 3.—Commercial telegrams in code handed in by CHINESE well-known commercial firms must bear the seal of the firm and be signed and guaranteed by the manager of the firm. A specimen of the seal and signature must be forwarded beforehand to the telegraph office. However, in case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.

Commercial telegrams in code handed in by other Chinese firms or persons must have a translation attached and, besides, be accompanied by the code book used.

- 4.—Commercial telegrams in code handed in by the FOREIGN Public must be sealed by the respective Consulates as a guarantee. If preferred, however, a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question may be lodged with the telegraph office in which case the telegrams need not be sealed. In case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.

- 5.—In case of necessity the censors may demand code books for inspection from the addressees of incoming commercial code telegrams.

- 6.—Foreign Government telegrams, whether in plain language or code, are exempted from censorship.

GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH  
COMPANY,

EASTERN EXTENSION TELEGRAPH  
COMPANY,

COMMERCIAL PACIFIC CABLE  
COMPANY.

Shanghai, 20th May, 1931.

0 7221

SI,  
Information  
J.W.

MAY 22 1931

# Nanking Decides That Censors Will Examine All Local Telegrams

Strict Censorship Of Messages By Government Officials Who Will Be Installed In Local Cable Offices Within Next Few Days

## FOREIGN COMMERCIAL TELEGRAMS MUST HAVE GUARANTEE OF CONSULATES

Instructions issued yesterday from Nanking by the Ministry of Communications, call for strict censorship of all telegrams and cables passing through the local foreign and Chinese telegraph offices. Censors are to be installed in the offices of the three foreign cable companies and they will examine all incoming and outgoing messages, which must bear the official stamp of the Government officials before they can be either dispatched or delivered. In addition to press and private messages, all commercial telegrams will be censored. The latter must bear the seal of the Consulates or a letter from the Consulates vouching for the commercial integrity and genuineness of the firm concerned. Censorship will begin within the next few days, as soon as the public have obtained the necessary Consular guarantees.

As foreshadowed in "The Shanghai Times" yesterday, censors are to be placed in the offices of the Great Northern Telegraph Co., Ltd., Commercial Pacific Company and Eastern Extension, Australia and China Telegraph Co., Ltd. These censors, who are nominees of the Ministry of Communications, are all persons reported to have had considerable experience in cable and telegraph work. Their duties will be to scrutinize all telegraph and cable messages lodged with the respective companies for dispatch to places in China or any other country. They will also examine all messages received at the local offices. The sole right of rejecting any message rests with these officials, but it is pointed out that this authority will not be exercised unless the messages contain matter detrimental to China or public safety, or contrary to Chinese law. Any such message will be sent to the Ministry of Communications for consideration.

### Letter Of Guarantee

The censorship is to apply to all messages irrespective of their destination or contents. Commercial messages will come within the scope of the examination, and in order to ensure dispatch, commercial messages leaving Shanghai must either bear the stamp of the Consulate of the firm concerned, or the sender must lodge with the cable office a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question.

The instructions issued by Nanking to the cable offices state that the censors may demand code books for inspection from the addressees of incoming commercial

code telegrams. The only messages exempted from censorship are those from foreign Governments.

During the past few days negotiations have been conducted between officials of the cable companies and the Ministry of Communications. The cable companies sought to have the censorship applied only to those messages sent or received from stations in China. The decision of the Government was awaited on this point. Yesterday the various companies were officially informed that the censorship would be applied to all messages irrespective of their destination or the country of their origin.

### Not Yet In Force

In order, however, that foreign firms may prepare themselves for the new regulations and secure the necessary letters of guarantee from their respective Consulates, the censorship will not be enforced for a day or two. The public will be informed by public notice from the cable companies when the censorship commences.

A system of censorship was enforced on much the same lines last year, it was pointed out by one of the officials of the cable companies, but it was only applied to domestic messages. Owing to the increasing gravity of the political situation as the result of the threatened military operations against the South, the Government has now applied the censorship to all messages.

### Restrictions Announced

Following are the restrictions which are to be enforced:

1.—Forwarded as well as received telegrams will be submitted to censors appointed by the Chinese Government.

2.—Telegrams in plain language which are found to be detrimental to China or public safety or contrary to Chinese laws will be stopped by the censors and submitted to the Ministry of Communications for consideration.

3.—Commercial telegrams in code handed in by well-known Chinese commercial firms must bear the seal of the firm and be signed and guaranteed by the manager of the firm. A specimen of the seal and signature must be forwarded, beforehand, to the telegraph office. However, in case of necessity, the censors may still demand to see the code book used. Commercial telegrams in code handed in by other Chinese firms or persons must have a translation attached and, besides, be accompanied by the code book used.

4.—Commercial telegrams in code handed in by the foreign public must be sealed by the respective Consulates as a guarantee. If preferred, however, a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question may be lodged with the telegraph office, in which case the telegrams need not be sealed. In case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.

5.—In case of necessity the censors may demand the code books for inspection from the addressees of incoming commercial telegrams.

6.—Foreign Government telegrams, whether in plain language or code, are exempted from censorship.

### Administration Rights

In referring to the proposed censorship in these columns yesterday it was stated that Mr. Sen Fu-hai had informed a representative of this paper that there was to be no discrimination between the examination of incoming and outgoing messages. This statement, although correct, was made by another official of the International Telegraph Bureau and not by Mr. Sen. Mr. Sen points out, however, that censorship in the telegraph service of the world exists, to a certain extent, all the time, since, at the International Telegraph Convention, a distinct article was provided, by virtue of which all telegraph administrations reserve the right to stop the transmission of any private telegrams which appear dangerous to the security of the State, are contrary to the laws of the country, to public order or to decency.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
Special CABLE REGISTRATION  
No. S. R. D. 2398  
Date May 20 1931  
Date 21-5-31

Subject (in full) Chinese Central and Foreign Telegraph Companies

Made by D.P.I. Ross

Forwarded by Henry Robertson C.B.

With reference to the article appearing in the Shin Wan and other local newspapers on May 10, 1931, on the above subject, enquiries show that on May 10, 1931, the Great Northern Telegraph Co., (British), the Commercial Pacific Cable Co., (American) and the East Indian Extension, Australia and China Telegraph Co., (British), each received a telegram from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the effect that owing to the growing gravity of the political situation in South China, all telegraphic messages emanating from China and, particularly, Canton, would be censored. Work has not yet commenced, and the Cable Companies have been informed that a re-examination of messages will be made if the censor's hand book clearly defines.

The new arrangement will be a permanent one and will be confined to messages exchanged between places within China only to include all messages, if required.

The arrangements with this matter of censorship are now proceeding between officials of the Foreign Ministry and a representative of the Ministry of Communications.

I may mention here that from July to October 1930, during the period of the rebellion against Nanjing's Feng and Yan, all telegrams transmitted by the local foreign cable companies to places within China, were subject to a strict examination by officers who had been appointed by the Nationalist Government.

J. B. Ross  
D. T.

Officer in Charge, Special Branch.

Commissioner of Police,  
S.S. Reformation

H. S. Ross  
D. T. 21-5-31

Revised  
2/5

File  
G.P.  
21-5-31

# Nanking Decides That Censors Will Examine All Local Telegrams

Strict Censorship Of Messages By Government Officials Who Will Be Installed In Local Cable Offices Within Next Few Days

## FOREIGN COMMERCIAL TELEGRAMS MUST HAVE GUARANTEE OF CONSULATES

Instructions issued yesterday from Nanking by the Ministry of Communications, call for strict censorship of all telegrams and cables passing through the local foreign and Chinese telegraph offices. Censors are to be installed in the offices of the three foreign cable companies and they will examine all incoming and outgoing messages, which must bear the official stamp of the Government officials before they can be either dispatched or delivered. In addition to press and private messages, all commercial telegrams will be censored. The latter must bear the seal of the Consulates or a letter from the Consulates vouching for the commercial integrity and genuineness of the firm concerned. Censorship will begin within the next few days, as soon as the public have obtained the necessary Consular guarantees.

As foreshadowed in "The Shanghai Times" yesterday, censors are to be placed in the offices of the Great Northern Telegraph Co., Ltd., Commercial Pacific Company and Eastern Extension, Australia and China Telegraph Co., Ltd. These censors, who are nominees of the Ministry of Communications, are all persons reported to have had considerable experience in cable and telegraph work. Their duties will be to scrutinize all telegraph and cable messages lodged with the respective companies for dispatch to places in China or any other country. They will also examine all messages received at the local offices. The sole right of rejecting any message rests with these officials, but it is pointed out that this authority will not be exercised unless the messages contain matter detrimental to China, or public safety, or contrary to Chinese law. Any such message will be sent to the Ministry of Communications for consideration.

**Letter Of Guarantee**  
The censorship is to apply to all messages irrespective of their destination or contents. Commercial messages will come within the scope of the examination, and in order to ensure dispatch, commercial messages leaving Shanghai must either bear the stamp of the Consulate of the firm concerned, or the sender must lodge with the cable office a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question.

The instructions issued by Nanking to the cable offices state that the censors may demand code books for inspection from the addressees of incoming commercial

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4.)

### Restrictions Announced

Following are the restrictions which are to be enforced:

1.—Forwarded as well as received telegrams will be submitted to censors appointed by the Chinese Government.

2.—Telegrams in plain language which are found to be detrimental to China or public safety or contrary to Chinese laws will be stopped by the censors and submitted to the Ministry of Communications for consideration.

3.—Commercial telegrams in code handed in by well-known Chinese commercial firms must bear the seal of the firm and be signed and guaranteed by the manager of the firm. A specimen of the seal and signature must be forwarded, beforehand, to the telegraph office. However, in case of necessity, the censors may still demand to see the code book used. Commercial telegrams in code handed in by other Chinese firms or persons must have a translation attached and, besides, be accompanied by the code book used.

4.—Commercial telegrams in code handed in by the foreign public must be sealed by the respective Consulates as a guarantee. If preferred, however, a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question may be lodged with the telegraph office, in which case the telegrams need not be sealed. In case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.

5.—In case of necessity the censors may demand the code books for inspection from the addressees of incoming commercial telegrams.

6.—Foreign Government telegrams, whether in plain language or code, are exempted from censorship.

### Administration Rights

In referring to the proposed censorship in these columns yesterday it was stated that Mr. Sen Fu-hai had informed a representative of this paper that there was to be no discrimination between the examination of incoming and outgoing messages. This statement, although correct, was made by another official of the International Telegraph Bureau and not by Mr. Sen. Mr. Sen points out, however, that censorship in the telegraph service of the world exists, to a certain extent, all the time, since, at the International Telegraph Convention, a distinct article was provided, by virtue of which all telegraph administrations reserve the right to stop the transmission of any private telegrams which appear dangerous to the security of the State, are contrary to the laws of the country, to public order or to decency.

### Not Yet In Force

In order, however, that foreign firms may prepare themselves for the new regulations and secure the necessary letters of guarantee from their respective Consulates, the censorship will not be enforced for a day or two. The public will be informed by public notice from the cable companies when the censorship commences.

A system of censorship was enforced on much the same lines last year, it was pointed out by one of the officials of the cable companies, but it was only applied to domestic messages. Owing to the increasing gravity of the political situation as the result of the threatened military operations against the South, the Government has now applied the censorship to all messages.

SHANGHAI, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1931.

CENSORSHIP ON  
TELEGRAMS

**I**N accordance with censorship regulations laid down by the Chinese Government the following restrictions are being put into force:—

- 1.—Forwarded as well as received telegrams will be submitted to censors appointed by the Chinese Government.
- 2.—Telegrams in plain language which are found to be detrimental to China or public safety or contrary to Chinese laws will be stopped by the censors and submitted to the Ministry of Communications for consideration.
- 3.—Commercial telegrams in code handed in by CHINESE well-known commercial firms must bear the seal of the firm and be signed and guaranteed by the manager of the firm. A specimen of the seal and signature must be forwarded beforehand to the telegraph office. However, in case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.  
Commercial telegrams in code handed in by other Chinese firms or persons must have a translation attached and, besides, be accompanied by the code book used.
- 4.—Commercial telegrams in code handed in by the FOREIGN Public must be sealed by the respective Consulates as a guarantee. If preferred, however, a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question may be lodged with the telegraph office in which case the telegrams need not be sealed. In case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.
- 5.—In case of necessity the censors may demand code books for inspection from the addressees of incoming commercial code telegrams.
- 6.—Foreign Government telegrams, whether in plain language or code, are exempted from censorship.

GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH  
COMPANY,  
EASTERN EXTENSION TELEGRAPH  
COMPANY,  
COMMERCIAL PACIFIC CABLE  
COMPANY.

Shanghai, 20th May, 1931.

0 7221

# Censors Will Function In Cable Offices

Three Foreign Companies Affected By Nanking's Latest Orders

## WILL OPERATE SOON

Scope Of Censorship Not Defined; May Include All Messages

Under instructions from the Ministry of Communications at Nanking, censors have been appointed to scrutinize messages dispatched through the local foreign cable companies. The censorship is not yet in force, but the cable companies are aware that as soon as the scope of the censors has been defined, examination of messages will begin.

Negotiations are now proceeding between officials of the companies concerned and the Ministry of Communications with a view to having the censorship applied only to those messages passing between the various cable stations in China, but at present there is no guarantee that all messages will not have to pass the Chinese censors.

The cable companies which will be affected by the censorship are the Great Northern Telegraph Co., Ltd., Commercial Pacific Cable Co., Eastern Extension, Australasia and China Telegraph Co., Ltd.

### Censors Appointed

According to officials of the cable companies, the censors appointed by the Ministry of Communications have not yet commenced their duties in the respective companies' offices to which they have been assigned, but it is expected that the censorship will be functioning in the near future. From the Commercial Pacific Cable Company it was ascertained that conversations between the management and the officials appointed to act as censors in that Company have already taken place, but as no definite instructions have yet been received from Nanking regarding the nature of the messages to be censored, work has not yet been commenced.

In this connection it has been ascertained that no real opposition to the censorship has been

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1.)

## LOCAL CENSORSHIP OF CABLEGRAMS

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 1.) raised by the companies, but a definite statement regarding the scope of the censors is sought. It is pointed out that unless the duties of the censors are clearly defined it will mean that all messages passing through the respective companies will come under the scrutiny of the Government's nominees. The dangers of such wholesale censorship, and the unnecessary delay which must result, are apparent.

### Official "Chops"

At the present time, unless instructions from Nanking are received to the contrary, all messages dispatched through the foreign cable companies will have to bear the official stamp of the censors, as soon as these officials are installed in the local offices. If the present plans of the Ministry of Communications are effective, the censors assigned to the respective companies will be established in the cable offices and will inspect all messages lodged for dispatch.

There is still the possibility, however, that through the negotiations of the Companies with the Nanking Government, the censorship will be applied only to those messages passing between the various stations in China. Instructions on this vital point are now awaited from Nanking.

It has long been the desire of the Ministry of Communications to establish a system of censorship over messages passing through the foreign cable offices, and the apprehension felt over the increasingly difficult situation arising at Canton is believed to have prompted the Nanking Government to hasten the plans for an effective censorship of all telegraph messages emanating from China and, particularly, Shanghai.

### Civil War

When it was pointed out to one official that such censorship was only applied when one country was at war with another, he said that as there was virtually a state of civil war existing in China to-day, the Nanking Government considered themselves within their rights in applying rigid censorship to messages which might be furthering the ends of their enemies. Just how far that censorship would extend, he was not in a position to state until the Ministry of Communication had announced its intentions.

All the three companies are now awaiting the decision from Nanking. Capt. J. J. Bahson, General Manager of the Great Northern Telegraph Company, in a statement issued to a representative of "The Shanghai Times" said: "So far there is no censorship in the cable offices, but censorship is desired by the Chinese Government and is at present under consideration. The scope of the censorship is not yet defined."

Mr. Shen Fu-hai, Chief of the International Telegraph Bureau, which comes directly under the Ministry of Communications at Nanking, informed a representative of this paper that there was to be no discrimination in the censorship of incoming and outgoing telegrams, so far as he had been instructed from Nanking, but in the absence of definite instructions from the Ministry of Communications the censorship could not be commenced immediately.

## Cable Companies Deny Censorship As Rules Applied

### No Telegrams Can Be Sent Without Chop Of Censors

While representatives of the Great Northern, Eastern Extension and Commercial Pacific Cable Companies denied yesterday that censorship had been established in their offices by the government, information received here last night from Nanking stated that the following procedure for the censorship of all incoming and outgoing telegrams at both the Chinese and all foreign telegraph and cable companies will go into effect immediately.

All telegrams and cablegrams will first be inspected by government censors and will not be despatched or delivered until the censors have attached their seals thereto.

Any telegram which in the opinion of the censor concerned would prove detrimental to the interest of China or is contrary to law and might prove against public interest will be confiscated and be forwarded to the Ministry of Communications.

No commercial telegrams in codes by bona fide Chinese firms will be accepted unless the same are signed by and chopped with the seals of the managers of the business houses concerned. Duplicates of such commercial telegrams, however, will also be submitted to the censors for reference. Other code telegrams will be submitted to the censors for approval.

All foreign commercial code telegrams must be accompanied by written statements from the consular authorities concerned certifying to the genuineness of such messages or be chopped with the official seals of the foreign consulates.

Whenever necessary, the censors may request the addresses of the senders of the telegrams for reference.

### Nanking Begins Censorship Of China Telegrams

With the growing gravity of the political situation, censorship on telegrams was enforced in the three local foreign telegraph offices yesterday by order of the national government.

Upon instructions from the Ministry of Communications, the International Telegraph Bureau despatched at 3 p.m. yesterday Mr. Chen Wen-teh, as chief, Messrs. Tu Ta-jen, Chen Nien-chun, Shao Chung-yuan, as censors, to the Great Eastern; Mr. Pan Cheng-chun, as chief, Messrs. Sung An-lan, Chu Yuan and Wu Chung-hwei, as censors, to the Great Northern; Mr. Sun Hsi-chen, as chief, Messrs. Shao Pao-chun and Shih Liang-pi as censors to the Commercial Pacific telegraph companies.

Extract from the Intelligence Report of May 19, 1931.

**CENSORS**  
**TELEGRAPHIC AND MARINE**

The Sir Alexander and other cables  
men were given the following reports:-  
"In receipt of a cable from the  
Great Northern, Great Western and Pacific Telegraph  
Companies giving their approval of the order of the  
Ministry of Communications, the International  
Telegraph Company yesterday detailed Censorship  
Officers to function in the offices of these  
companies.

D. J. Ross.

For inquiry and report please.

MR 1931

THE EASTERN EXTENSION  
AUSTRALASIA & CHINA  
TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

NOTICE

RESTRICTION ON TELEGRAMS  
EXCHANGED BETWEEN  
PLACES WITHIN CHINA.

COMMERCIAL telegrams in code language exchanged between places within China are no longer subject to any restrictions.

W. D. PROCTER,  
Divisional Manager, China-  
Shanghai, October 27, 1930.

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THE GREAT NORTHERN  
TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

NOTICE.

Restrictions on Telegrams exchanged  
between Places within China.

COMMERCIAL telegrams in code language exchanged between places within China are no longer subject to any restrictions.

J. J. RAHNSON,  
General Manager in the Far East

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THE EASTERN EXTENSION  
AUSTRALASIA & CHINA  
TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

NOTICE

**Restrictions on Telegrams Exchanged between Places Within China.**

IN accordance with regulations laid down by the Chinese Government, commercial telegrams in code language EXCHANGED BETWEEN PLACES WITHIN CHINA are subject to the following restrictions:

1. They must not contain military or political news.
2. When handed in by the Chinese Public:—
  - (a) In the case of well-known commercial firms telegrams must bear the seal of the firm and must also be signed and certified by the Manager. A specimen of the seal and signature must first be forwarded to the telegraph office. The telegraph office may demand the code book for inspection.
  - (b) In all other cases the sender must attach a translation and produce the code book.
3. When handed in by the Foreign Public the telegrams must be sealed and certified by the respective Consulates. If preferred, however, a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question may be lodged with the telegraph office, in which case the telegrams need not be sealed and certified. The telegraph office may demand the code book for inspection.
4. The code book may also be demanded from the addressees for inspection.

W. D. PROCTER,

*Divisional Manager, China.*

Shanghai, 3rd July, 1930.

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THE GREAT NORTHERN  
TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

NOTICE

**Restrictions on Telegrams Exchanged Between Places Within China**

IN accordance with regulations laid down by the Chinese Government, commercial telegrams in code language exchanged between places within China are subject to the following restrictions:

1. They must not contain military or political news.
2. When handed in by the Chinese Public:—
  - (a) In the case of well-known commercial firms telegrams must bear the seal of the firm and must also be signed and certified by the manager. A specimen of the seal and signature must first be forwarded to the telegraph office. The telegraph office may demand the code book for inspection.
  - (b) In all other cases the sender must attach a translation and produce the code book.
3. When handed in by the Foreign Public the telegrams must be sealed and certified by the respective Consulates. If preferred, however, a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question may be lodged with the telegraph office, in which case the telegrams need not be sealed and certified. The telegraph office may demand the code book for inspection.
4. The code book may also be demanded from the addressees for inspection.

J. J. BAHNSON

*General Manager in the Far East.*

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Extract from the Morning Translation of May 20, 1931.

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CHINESE CENSORSHIP AND FOREIGN CABLE COMPANIES.

The China Times and other local newspapers publish the following report :-

With reference to the report published in yesterday's newspapers to the effect that Mr. Sung Foh Hai ( ), Chief of the Cable Department of the International Telegraph Bureau, had made arrangements with the Great Eastern, Great Northern and Pacific Telegraph Companies for Censorship Officers to function in the offices of these Companies, it is now learned that the Cable Companies have not given their approval to the scheme.

Reg.  
- file.

JFK.  
- Dr. May 21.

Extract from the Intelligence Report of 5.5.31.

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Censorship of radiograms

In compliance with a confidential order issued by the C.E.C. of Kuomintang at Nanking, the Organization Department of the local Kuomintang Headquarters detailed two representatives on April 4 to the Head Office of the Chinese Radio Administration, 565 Min Kuo Road, City, to censor all radiograms despatched and received with the object of checking all messages bearing on the present political situation. This action is believed to be the outcome of the recent coup d'etat which is alleged to have taken place in Canton.

Extract from the Afternoon Translation dated  
May 22, 1931.

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Chinese Censors and Foreign Telegraph Companies

The China Times publishes the following report :

In accordance with the regulations governing censorship of cables of foreign telegraph companies as promulgated by the National Government, the censorship officers are now functioning in the offices of the Great Northern, Great Eastern and Pacific Telegraph Companies. The following are the restrictions : -

- (1) Forwarded as well as received telegrams will be submitted to censors appointed by the Chinese Government.
- (2) Telegrams in plain language which are found to be detrimental to China or public safety or contrary to Chinese laws will be stopped by the censors and submitted to the Ministry of Communications for consideration.
- (3) Commercial telegrams in code handed in by Chinese well-known commercial firms must bear the seal of the firm and be signed and guaranteed by the manager of the firm. A specimen of the seal and signature must be forwarded before hand to the telegraph office. However, in case of necessity, the censors may still demand to see the code book used. Commercial telegrams in code handed in by other Chinese firms or persons must have a translation attached and, besides, be accompanied by the code used.
- (4) Commercial telegrams in code handed in by the Foreign Public must be sealed by the respective Consulates as a guarantee. If preferred, however, a letter from the Consulate vouching for the firm in question may be lodged with the telegraph office in which case the telegrams need not be sealed. In case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.
- (5) In case of necessity the censors may demand code books for inspection from the addressees of incoming commercial code telegrams.
- (6) Foreign Government telegrams, whether in plain language or code, are excepted from censorship.

Information about the Chinese censorship.

The Chinese firms publisher the following reports:-

In accordance with the regulations governing censorship of cables of foreign telegraph companies as promulgated by the National Government, the censorship officers are now functioning in the offices of the Great Northern, Great Eastern and Arctic telegraph companies. The following are the restrictions:-

(1) forwarded as well as received telegrams will be submitted to censors appointed by the Chinese Government.

(2) Telegrams in plain language which are found to be detrimental to China or public safety or contrary to Chinese laws will be stopped by the censors and submitted to the Ministry of Communications for examination.

(3) Commercial telegrams in code handled in by Chinese well-known commercial firms must bear the seal of the firm and be signed and guaranteed by the manager of the firm. A copy of the seal and signature must be forwarded herewith to the telegraph office. However, in case of necessity, the censors may still demand to see the code book used. Commercial telegrams in code handled in by other Chinese firms or in case of no translation attached and, therefore, no code used by the code used.

(4) Commercial telegrams in code handled in by the foreign public must be sealed by the respective companies as a guarantee. If, preferred, however, a letter from the company sending for the firm in question may be lodged with the telegraph office in which case the telegram need not be sealed. In case of necessity the censors may still demand to see the code book used.

(5) In case of necessity the censors may demand code books for examination first in case of receiving commercial code telegrams.

(6) Foreign government telegrams, whether in plain language or code, are exempted from censorship.

*Extract  
for file.*

22.5.31.

S.M.F.  
Report being  
compiled on  
this matter  
20.5.31

~~Information Confidential - Do Not Circulate~~

The China Times and other local newspapers publish the following report:-  
With reference to the report published in yesterday's newspaper to the effect that Mr. Sung Ieh Hui (孫介輝), Chief of the Cable Department of the International Telegraph Company, had made arrangements with the front sectors, Great Northern and Pacific Telegraph Companies for censorship officers to function in the offices of these Companies, it is now learned that the Cable Companies have not given their approval to the scheme.

*Report being  
considered*

*19.5.31.*

CHITRAGARH AND RAILWAY TELEGRAPH CONTROLLER.

Meenam Meen 200 and other local newspapers publish the following report:-

On receipt of a reply from the Great Northern, Great Western and Asiatic Telegraph Companies giving their approval of the order of the Ministry of Communications, the International Telegraph Bureau yesterday detailed Censorship Officers to function in the offices of these companies.